

His Authority! Changes Everything!

We're living in a world where people are committed to everything but God. They're shackled to careers, to likes and follows on social media, to comfort, to convenience, to temporary earthly pleasures that fade away. They'll stand in line for hours to see a concert, or to try to catch something on sale, but won't take the time to pray and study God's word! They'll pour their energy into chasing money, fame, relationships, and hobbies, but when it comes to the things of God, they treat Him like an option that is not really a necessity. The world is faithful to its idols—but what about the Church?

Where are the believers who will say, I'm not here for what Jesus can do for me, I'm here because I'm committed to his Authority?

- I'm committed to something bigger than I am.
- I'm committed to something bigger than you are.
- I'm committed to something bigger than all of us put together—
- It's the sovereignty of God.
- And I'm not just interested... I'm not just curious...
- I'm committed! As Camreon our student pastor would say... I am all in! I am going to be intentional in prayer, the study of God's Word, and becoming involved in ministry and calling for my life!

First, we need to understand who we are in Christ and the Authority we have through the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul described this spiritual authority through his letter to the Corinthians, and it is the same authority we have today!

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

⁶ And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. **2 Corinthians 10:3-6**

Once we have received the Lord as Savior, you then have God's presence dwelling in your heart through the power and authority of His Holy Spirit to overcome anything and follow His call!

¹ **The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me**; because the LORD hath anointed me to **preach good tidings unto the meek**; he hath sent me to **bind up the brokenhearted**, to **proclaim liberty to the captives**, and the **opening of the prison to them that are bound**; ² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to **comfort all that mourn**; ³ To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to **give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning**, the **garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness**; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. **Isaiah 61:1-3 (KJV)**

This is all accomplished through His authority, which brings in his power, provision and word. Let's look back at the First Covenant...

¹ Then verily the first *covenant* had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. ² For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein *was* the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. ³ And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the **Holiest of all**; ⁴ Which had the golden censer, and the **ark of the covenant** overlaid round about with gold, wherein *was* the **golden pot that had manna, (God's Provision)** and **Aaron's rod that budded, (God's Power!)** and the **tables of the covenant; (God's Word!)** ⁵ And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the **mercyseat**; of which we cannot now speak particularly. ⁶ Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service *of God*. ⁷ But into the second *went* the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and *for* the errors of the people: **Hebrews 9:1-7**

¹⁶ Know ye not that **ye are the temple of God**, and *that* **the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?** 1 Corinthians 3:16 (KJV)

Jesus, through the shredding of His blood and death on calvary, became the perfect lamb of God that paid the punishment of sin once and for all, and has become our one and only high priest!

¹¹ But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; ¹² Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, **having obtained eternal redemption for us.** ¹³ For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: ¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to **serve the living God?**
Hebrews 9:11-14

Therefore, you are completely equipped to stand in His amazing and powerful Authority! He has given you everything that you will ever need to walk through this life, and when we follow His teaching and calling we will always... BE STRONG IN THE LORD!

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord**, and in **the power of his might.** ¹¹ **Put on the whole armour of God**, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood,** but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you **the whole armour of God**, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
Eph 6:10-13 (Next week we will look deeper into his whole armour!)

Today's big question is, what authority rules in your life? You or the Holy Spirit!